In the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of inhibiting a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection in a ~~patient~~ mammal by decreasing the endogenous protein kinase C (PKC) activity within the ~~patient~~ mammal.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the PKC activity is that of at least one classical PKC isoform.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said decreasing comprises administering at least one PKC inhibitor to the ~~patient~~ mammal.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 3, wherein the at least one PKC inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of AG 490, PD98059, PKC-alpha/beta pseudosubstrate peptide, staurosporine Ro-31-7549, Ro-31-8220, Ro-31-8425, Ro-32-0432, sangivamycin; calphostin C, safingol, D-erythro-sphingosine, chelerythrine chloride, melittin; dequalinium chloride, Go6976, Go6983, Go7874, polymyxin B sulfate; cardiotoxin, ellagic acid, HBDDE, 1-O-Hexadecyl-2-O-methyl-rac-glycerol, hypercin, K-252, NGIC-J, phloretin, piceatannol, tamoxifen citrate, flavopiridol, and bryostatin 1.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The method of claim 3, wherein the at least one PKC inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of an antisense oligonucleotide molecule, a polypeptide, and a function-blocking antibody or fragment thereof, targeted to PKC.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The method of claim 3, wherein said decreasing comprises administering a polynucleotide encoding the at least one PKC inhibitor to the ~~patient~~ mammal, wherein the polynucleotide is expressed within the ~~patient~~ mammal.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~patient~~ mammal is human.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~patient~~ mammal is suffering from the RSV infection, and wherein said decreasing alleviates at least one of the symptoms associated with the RSV infection.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~patient~~ mammal is not suffering from the RSV infection.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The method of claim 3, wherein the at least one PKC inhibitor is administered to the ~~patient~~ mammal orally or intranasally.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 3, wherein the at least one PKC inhibitor is administered with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): The method of claim 6, wherein the polynucleotide is administered to the ~~patient~~ mammal with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises chitosan or a derivative thereof.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 3, wherein the at least one PKC inhibitor is co-administered with at least one additional anti-viral agent.

Claims 14-20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (Currently amended): The method of claim 3, wherein the at least one PKC inhibitor comprises interfering RNA targeted to PKC mRNA within the mammal, which interferes with PKC expression within the ~~patient~~ mammal.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the interfering RNA comprises siRNA.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the PKC expression comprises classical PKC expression.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the PKC expression comprises PKC alpha expression.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the interfering RNA is administered by the pulmonary route.

Claim 26 (Currently amended): The method of claim 21, wherein the interfering RNA is administered to the ~~patient's~~ mammal's bronchial epithelium.

Claim 27 (Currently amended): The method of claim 21, wherein the interfering RNA is administered intranasally to the ~~patient's~~ mammal's mucosa.

Claim 28 (New): The method of claim 3, wherein the at least one PKC inhibitor is an oligonucleotide targeted to PKC mRNA within the mammal, and wherein the oligonucleotide interferes with PKC expression and reduces PKC activity.

Claim 29 (New): The method of claim 28, wherein the oligonucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to PKC mRNA within the mammal.

Claim 30 (New): The method of claim 29, wherein the oligonucleotide is within the range of 5 to 50 nucleotides in length.